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**APRIL 3, 2020**

Dear Friends,

The last few weeks have begun a public health crisis the likes of which few of us have experienced in our lifetimes. I have remained hopeful because of the way Rhode Islanders have come together to handle the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, help each other, and keep our communities moving forward. You are doing your part – and as your representative I have been working hard to provide immediate help during this difficult period.

With significant social distancing orders in place and weekly unemployment claims hitting record highs, we find ourselves at a critical point. In these unprecedented times, [the CARES Act, which passed the House last Friday](#), is the unprecedented response we need to help the families, workers and small businesses that have been hit the hardest. This “Phase III” legislation provides more than \$2 trillion in relief, including financial assistance to people with **one-time payments of \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child**. It supports local public health operations by providing **\$100 million for hospitals and other healthcare organizations** and **\$150 billion in state aid**, including \$1.25 billion for Rhode Island. It also helps small businesses and nonprofits weather the economic downturn by backing **\$350 billion in forgivable loans to allow them to make payroll and pay rent**. For workers, it includes a **\$600 a week boost to unemployment insurance benefits** for four months and a **temporary unemployment insurance program** for part-time, self-employed and other non-traditional workers.

Earlier in March, the House passed “Phase II,” the [Families First Coronavirus Responses Act](#). The bill was the product of bipartisan negotiations and cleared the way for drastic action to protect families’ health and financial wellbeing by providing **free testing** and **paid sick leave** for those who need it, extending important **family and medical leave benefits**, and **tackling food insecurity** as more communities began implementing necessary preventive public health measures like school closures, quarantines, and social distancing.

Keeping Americans safe has been the top priority since the early developments of this crisis. As the scale of this threat became apparent in early March, the House worked quickly to pass an [\\$8.3 billion funding package](#) to help bolster preparedness and response efforts that included at least **\$5.4 million for Rhode Island**. The “Phase I” package prioritized funding for **research and development of vaccines and therapeutics** for the virus, crucial support to help the operations of state and local health agencies, and an initial **\$7 billion for low-interest loans** for small business support.

I know that many Rhode Islanders are struggling because of the turmoil created by the COVID-19 outbreak, and they need assistance now. I remain committed to helping however I can. In addition to our work on critical legislation, **my office has compiled a list of helpful resources:**

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Medical Information from the Rhode Island Department of Health](#)
- [Executive Order Guidance and Information for Rhode Island Residents, Travelers, and Businesses](#)
- [Rhode Island COVID-19 Health Benefit Changes](#)
- [Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Workplace, Unemployment Support](#)
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Increases and Recertification Changes](#)
- [“Grab and Go” Food Sites for Youth](#)
- [Healthy Aging Food and Nutrition Information for Older Rhode Islanders](#)
- [SBA Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources](#)
- [Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation Updates](#)
- [United Way of Rhode Island 2-1-1 Help Line](#)

I will also host another [live Telephone Town Hall on Monday, April 6, at 7:00pm](#). The town hall will focus on what we are doing to keep communities safe from coronavirus and what resources are available to those in need. If you would like to participate, **call (855) 962-1080 at 6:55pm to join the discussion**.

Please remember to continue following guidance from medical professionals like practicing social distancing,

frequently washing your hands, and staying home to be safe and prevent further spread. We will get through this together. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, my office remains open and you can call us during business hours at **(401) 732-9400** or [email us](#) at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Langevin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

If you would like to opt out from future communications, please [click here](#).  
For more information about my work in Congress, please visit [my website](#).



# Congressman Jim Langevin (RI-02)

**THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT**  
HELPING FAMILIES, WORKERS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES

## SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

- **\$1,200 ONE-TIME PAYMENT PER ADULT & \$500 PER CHILD;** payments will phase out for individuals making more than \$75,000 (couples making more than \$150,000)
- **A \$600 PER WEEK BOOST TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE** benefits for four months
- **A TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM** for part-time, self-employed, gig economy, & other non-traditional workers
- **\$30.75 BILLION FOR AN EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND** to support local school systems and colleges and universities
- **\$3.5 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS** and **\$750 million in support for Head Start**
- **\$955 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF SENIORS** for nutrition programs, home and community-based services, support for family caregivers, and other programs



## SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESSES

- **BACKING FOR \$350 BILLION IN LOANS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES & NONPROFITS** make payroll & pay rent; loans will be forgiven for businesses that don't lay off workers
- **\$10 BILLION FOR SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000** to retain workers and pay for debt obligations
- **A SIX-MONTH FREEZE ON PAYMENTS FOR EXISTING SBA LOANS**
- **A REFUNDABLE PAYROLL TAX CREDIT** for 50% of wages paid for employers severely affected by coronavirus
- **DEFERRED PAYMENT OF THE EMPLOYER SHARE OF SOCIAL SECURITY TAX** with full repayment by December 31, 2022



## SUPPORTING OUR HEALTH PROVIDERS & OUR STATE

- **\$100 BILLION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS** to cover coronavirus-related costs
- **\$150 BILLION FOR A CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR STATE AID**, including \$1.25 billion for RI
- **\$45 BILLION FOR FEMA'S DISASTER RELIEF FUND** to support state, local, & tribal governments
- **\$27 BILLION FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND** in support of hospitals & other health care entities
- **\$16 BILLION FOR THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE** of pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment (PPE), & other medical supplies
- **\$15.85 BILLION TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE** access for **VETERANS**

